

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
EB-08 BIB-01 /061 W  
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P R 301950Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6885  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5968

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PFOR SOPN CSCE UR US XH  
SUBJECT: TASS AND PRAVDA REPORT MFA DEMARCHE ON RFE/RL

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 5925, (B) MUNICH 1266 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA, TASS CARRY STORIES ON MFA DEMARCHE  
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CONCERNING RFE/RL. MEDIA TREATMENT INCLUDES THREAT TO  
RETALIATE. THIS IS NOT CONTAINED IN OUR NOTES OF DEMARCHE  
ITSELF. RETALIATION COULD MEAN MORE JAMMING IN THE

USSR OR IN EASTERN EUROPE AND POSSIBLY A DIPLOMATIC  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOSE COUNTRIES THAT PROVIDE THE RADIOS  
WITH FACILITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. APRIL 30 PRAVDA CARRIES THE TEXT OF AN APRIL 29 TASS DISPATCH (CARRIED IN TASS ENGLISH) CONCERNING THE MFA DEMARCHE ON RFE/RL (REF A). THE PRAVDA ITEM CONTAINS MUCH OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE STATEMENT READ BY FEDOSEYEV TO POL/COUNS, BUT OF COURSE DOES NOT REPORT FACT THAT PROTEST WAS REJECTED OUT OF HAND.

3. THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS DRUM-ROLL OF PROPAGANDA IN SOVIET MEDIA DIRECTED AT RFE/RL. THE DEMARCHE WAS THE FIRST ON THAT SUBJECT IN A LONG TIME. THE FACT THAT IT WAS MADE, AND THE IMMEDIATE MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO IT IS INTENDED TO UNDERLINE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SOVIET PROTEST.

4. THE PRAVDA PIECE AND TASS DISPATCH THREATEN RETALIATION. OUR NOTES OF THE CONVERSATION WITH FEDOSEYEV DO NOT INCLUDE MENTION OF SUCH THREAT. TASS ENGLISH SAYS:  
"...ATTEMPTS NOT MERELY TO CARRY ON, BUT EVEN TO STEP UP THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA CENTERS ...PLAY ONLY INTO THE HANDS OF THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE, MAKING IT NECESSARY TO TAKE RETALIATORY MEASURES, ALL OF WHICH CANNOT BUT WORSEN THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES FALLS ENTIRELY ON THE AMERICAN SIDE."

5. THE THREAT TO RETALIATE IS NEW IN SOVIET DENUNCIATIONS OF THE RADIOS AND WE REGARD IT AS OMINOUS. IT MAY FORE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SHADOW AN INCREASE IN SOVIET JAMMING OF RL WHICH STILL GETS THROUGH TO SOVIET RURAL AREAS (AND SOMETIMES TO CITIES AS WELL). IT MAY ALSO PRESAGE INCREASED SOVIET PRESSURE ON THE ROMANIANS AND HUNGARIANS (WHO DO NOT JAM RFE BROADCASTS IN THEIR LANGUAGES) AND THE POLES (WHOSE JAMMING OF RFE POLISH IS INCOMPLETE) TO BEGIN OR TO STEP UP JAMMING. WE WONDER IF MIGHT NOT ALSO SIGNAL A SOVIET INTENTION TO JAM RL BROADCASTS TO THE USSR FROM EASTERN EUROPE, A MOVE THAT WOULD INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF JAMMING OF RL.

6. WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT RFE/RL HAS BEEN A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN THE CURRENT PRAGUE CP CONFERENCE, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF PONOMAREV RAISED IT, PERHAPS IN PRIVATE, BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. THE PARTY MEETING OF PROPAGANDA WORKERS, HELD IN SOFIA IN EARLY MARCH MAY HAVE BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOVIET PRESSURE ON THE EASTERN EUROPEANS. PRAVDA ANNOUNCED APRIL 28 THAT A CPSU DELEGATION WAS IN BUDAPEST TO CONSULT WITH HUNGARIAN PARTY OFFICIALS ON PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN STILL ANOTHER

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS SOVIET CONCERN.

7. BOTH IN THE DEMARCHE AND IN THE PRESS TREATMENT, THE SOVIETS HAVE CONSTANTLY REFERRED TO BOTH STATIONS, WHICH MAY MEAN THAT THEY INTEND TO MOVE AGAINST BOTH. CERTAINLY THE SOVIETS CANNOT BE PLEASED THAT SOME EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE ALLOWING RFE BROADCASTS TO PENETRATE UNJAMMED. SOVIET DISPLEASURE IN THE CASE OF THE ROMANIANS MAY BE PARTICULARLY MARKED, SINCE RFE ROMANIAN IS AUDIBLE, UNJAMMED, IN SOVIET MOLDAVIA.

8. FINALLY, THE THREAT TO RETALIATE MAY BE INTENDED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE STATIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES (THE FRG, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, FRANCE) THAT PROVIDE THE RADIOS WITH FACILITIES. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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